

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 00269 071529Z

44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 OPR-02 OMB-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AGR-20 EUR-25 NIC-01 DRC-01 /178 W

----- 033537

R 071220Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8861

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 0269

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: BOMBAY TEXTILE WORKERS STRIKE

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA, MADRAS
JAN 3RD FROM BOMBAY IS RPTD.

QUOTE:

BOMBAY 0015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, IN

SUBJECT: BOMBAY TEXTILE WORKERS STRIKE

REF: A) BOMBAY A-68, JULY 10, 1973; B) BOMBAY 0004

1. SOME 200,000 BOMBAY COTTON TEXTILE WORKERS HAVE BEEN ON
STRIKE SINCE DECEMBER 30 PROTESTING AGAINST(1) WHAT WORKERS
CONSIDER UNSATISFACTORY AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN THE RASHTRIYA
MILL MAZDOOR SANGH (RMMS), THE RECOGNIZED BARGAINING AGENT.,
AND THE MILLOWNERS ASSOCIATION (2) THE INTRODUCTION OF
SEVEN-DAY WEEKMIN THE INDUSTRY. STRIKE SO FAR HAS BEEN
GENERALLY PEACEFUL BUT CONTINUED PICKETING AND INTIMIDATION
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 00269 071529Z

MAY PRODUCE SOME VIOLENCE. OBSERVACE OF "MAHARASHTRA BANDH"

ON JANUARY 2 (REF B) ADDED SOME SUPPORT TO THE STRIKE.

2. AGREEMENT BETWEEN RMMS AND MA SIGNED DECEMBER 28 IN PRESENCE, AMONG OTHERS, OF RAJNI PATEL, PRESIDENT OF RMMS AND ALSO OF BOMBAY PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE AND V.P. NAIK, CHIEF MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA ENVISAGES (A) AN 8 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE FOR WORKERS AND (B) CERTAIN FRINGE BENEFITS. BOTH RMMS AND MA SPOKESMEN HAVE HAILED AGREEMENT AS A MAJOR LANDMARK. THE AGREEMENT, VALID FOR THREE YEARS, ENTAILS AN ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE OF RS 80 MILLION IN 1976. V.R. HOSHING, GENERAL SECRETARY OF RMMS SAID THAT "AT NO TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY HAVE THE WORKERS GAINED SO SUBSTANTIALLY AS THEY WILL BE BENEFITTING NOW."

3. OPPOSITION TO THE AGREEMENT HAS COME FROM THE AITUC-AFFILIATED GIRNI KAMGAR UNION (GKU), THE CITU-CONTROLLED LAL BAVTA MILL MAZDOOR UNION AND OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS INCLUDING THE JAN SANGH LABOR WING, THE BHARATIYA MAZDOOR SANGH, WHICH BRAND THE AGREEMENT A SELLOUT BY RMMS TO MA, CONSIDER AN 8 PERCENT WAGE INCREASE GREATLY INSUFFICIENT, AND DEMAND AN INCREASE OF 25 PERCENT. THE STRIKE, ONLY PARTIAL IN THE BEGINNING, HAS GATHERED MOMENTUM AND MA SOURCES ADMIT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL SECTION OF THE WORKERS HAVE RESPONDED TO THE STRIKE CALL.

4. THE LEFTIST UNIONS ARE ALSO OPPOSING THE SEVEN-DAY WEEK WORK SYSTEM FOR WHICH AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BETWEEN RMMS AND MA ON JULY 5, 1973 (SEE BOMBAY A-68). SO FAR THE AGREEMENT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED IN ONLY TWO TEXTILE MILLS AND NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY BETWEEN RMMS AND INDIVIDUAL LEFTIST UNIONS, PARTICULARLY THE GKU, ARGUE THAT THE INTRODUCTION OF THE SEVEN-DAY SYSTEM WOULD ROB THE WORKERS OF A COMMON HOLIDAY ON SUNDAYS.

5. ALTHOUGH THE RMMS, HEADED BY RAJNI PATEL, IS THE RECOGNIZED BARAGAINING AGENT IN THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY, THE GKU WIELDS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE AMONG THE WORKERS AND HAS STAGED SEVERAL WORK STOPPAGES IN THE PAST AGAINST THE RMMS. AT THE PRESENT, NO SETTLEMENT IS IN SIGHT AND

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 00269 071529Z

PROLONGATION OF THE STRIKE MAY LEAD TO VIOLENCE.
BANE.

UNQUOTE:MOYNIHAN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILE INDUSTRY, WAGES, COTTON, LABOR STRIKES, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE00269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740159/aaaacdim.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) BOMBAY A-68, JULY 10, 1973; B) BO, MBAY 0004
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <18-Nov-2002 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BOMBAY TEXTILE WORKERS STRIKE FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO CALCUTTA, MADRAS
TAGS: ELAB, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005